

*Apr 20, 1951* *Austria*

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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AUSTRIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MAY 6. On May 6, 1951, for the first time in the history of the Austrian Republic, the people of Austria in all nine of the country's federal provinces will go to the polls to elect a new Federal President by direct and secret ballot. The election of previous chief executives, including that of the late Dr. Karl Renner in 1945, was not by direct popular vote but by the so-called Federal Assembly, that is, by both Houses of the Austrian Parliament in joint session.

According to the provisions of the Austrian Federal Constitution, as amended in 1929, voting is compulsory in presidential elections such as the one to be held on May 6. All persons entitled to vote in the election of the National Council will likewise be entitled to vote in the election for the President. The detailed provisions governing the election procedure and compulsory voting are covered by a special election statute which was unanimously approved by the Austrian Parliament on January 16, 1951.

The person in whose favor more than one half of all valid votes are cast shall be elected. Should there be no absolute majority, the balloting must be repeated. In the second balloting, which would take place four weeks later, votes may be validly cast for only one of the two candidates who had received the most votes in the first balloting. Either of the two groups of voters which have set up these two candidates can, however, substitute in the second balloting a candidate different from the one originally nominated to run.

Only persons who are eligible for the National Council and who have passed their 35th birthday before January 1, 1951, may be elected as President of the Federation. The term of office of the Federal President shall be for a period of six years. Reelection for the term of office immediately following is permissible on only one occasion.

To date, the country's various parties and political groups have nominated the following candidates to run for President:

Dr. Heinrich Gleissner, the present Governor of Upper Austria, has been nominated by the Austrian People's Party, the numerically largest in the country. Dr. Gleissner, who was born in Linz on January 26, 1893, saw four and a half years of service in World War I. After his release from an Italian prisoner-of-war camp he attended the University of Innsbruck, from which he was graduated in 1920 with a double Doctorate of Laws degree. In the course of the following years Dr. Gleissner acquired the reputation of a highly competent specialist in agricultural problems, as a result of which he was appointed Under-secretary of State for Agriculture and Forestry in 1933. In March of the following year he was elected Governor of Upper Austria on the ticket of the Christian Social Party, and served in this position until the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938. During the German occupation Dr. Gleissner was arrested on several occasions and interned in concentration camps. After the liberation of the country in the fall of 1945 he was appointed to his former post as Governor of Upper Austria, a position to which he was unanimously elected by the legislature of that province after the national elections held in November of that same year. In the first week of January 1951 Dr. Gleissner attended a Conference of the Moral Rearmament Movement in Washington, D. C.

The candidate of the Austrian Socialist Party, the second largest in the land, is the present Mayor of the City of Vienna, Theodor Koerner, Doctor Honoris Causa and a retired general. Mayor Koerner was born on April 24, 1873, in Uj Szönyi, Hungary, where his father was on garrison duty at the time. Upon graduation from the Vienna Military Academy he began his military career in the Austrian Army. At the early age of 26 he already held the rank of Captain on the General Staff. During World War I he was Chief of General Staff in the Army. After the war General Koerner, who as a young officer had already shown a particularly mature grasp of current political and social problems, was appointed Section Chief in the Ministry of the Army of the First Republic. Later the Social Democratic Party delegated him to the Parliamentary Commission for military matters. In 1925 the City of Vienna appointed him to the Federal Council, of which he was

the last President until its dissolution in February 1934. In that month Theodor Koerner, as all other leading Socialist officials, was arrested by the Dollfuss Government and detained for investigation for a period of eleven months. In 1945 he was arrested by the Gestapo. After the liberation of Vienna in April 1945, Dr. Koerner received the endorsement of all political parties for the position of provisional Mayor of the Austrian capital. Following the November 1945 elections he was confirmed as Mayor of Vienna by a unanimous vote of the city's Municipal Council. In the previous month he had received an Honorary Doctorate from the Vienna Institute of Technology.

The Leftist Bloc (Communists) has put forward the former Vice President of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions and now a Member of the Upper Chamber of Parliament, Gottlieb Fiala, as its candidate for the position of Federal President. Gottlieb Fiala, who was born in Vienna on October 14, 1891, became one of the co-founders of the Austrian Communist Party in 1918 after his return from Russian captivity. From 1924 to 1927 he represented the Party in the Central Executive Committee, and from 1934 to 1945 engaged in illegal labor union activity. After 1945 Fiala was for some time Vice President of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions.

Two other political groups which participated in the last general elections, the Union of Independents (VdU) and the Democratic Union, have not nominated any candidates of their own for the forthcoming presidential elections. The Democratic Union, of which Prof. Dobretsberger is the National Chairman, has left its members free to decide for themselves for whom to cast their vote among the candidates of the other parties, but the VdU intends to support the candidacy of Dr. Burghard Breitner who has been nominated as an independent presidential candidate by the so-called Committee of Supra-party Union. Dr. Breitner, who was born in Mattsee, Province of Salzburg, on June 10, 1884, is one of the country's leading surgeons and President of the Austrian Red Cross Society. During World War I Dr. Breitner was in Russian captivity, organizing and directing among his compatriots and fellow-sufferers a prisoner-of-war hospital in Siberia. Politically, Dr. Breitner has not yet made his opinion known.

The election campaign for the new Federal President has gotten off to a relatively late start and has so far been conducted in an atmosphere of peace and order. In separate election appeals both the People's and Socialist Parties have emphasized that in the coming presidential elections not so much parties as personalities were competing for the people's mandate and have urged that the electoral campaign be conducted in complete fairness and along such lines as are consistent with the dignity and responsibility of the future President.

In the general elections held in October 1949 the People's Party polled 44.3 per cent of the total vote, the Socialists 38.71 per cent, the Communists 5.08 per cent, the Union of Independents 11.67 per cent and various splinter groups 0.51 per cent.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER SEES BIG FOUR DEPUTIES IN PARIS. On the occasion of his visit to Paris for the OEEC Conference, Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber on April 9 had extended conversations with the Foreign Ministers' Deputies Parodi of France, Jessup of the United States, Gromyko of the Soviet Union and the British deputy for the Austrian State Treaty Mallet.

AUSTRIA OFFICIALLY REQUESTS BIG FOUR TO PLACE AUSTRIAN TREATY ON AGENDA. Early in April the Austrian Federal Government sent an official communication to the Foreign Ministers' Deputies meeting in Paris, in which it gave expression to its expectation that in view of the urgency of reestablishing a peaceful order in Central Europe the Austrian question would definitely be placed on the agenda of any forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference. The Austrian note said that at this time it could only express the hope that such a conference of the Big Four be successful in order that an agreement may finally be reached on the State Treaty, to which Austria aspires and which would finally lead to the withdrawal of occupation forces from the country and thus eliminate the burden of occupation costs.

CHANCELLOR FIGL CLARIFIES GOVERNMENT POSITION ON OCCUPATION COSTS. In reply to questions raised by Socialist Deputies in the Austrian Parliament at the beginning of April, Chancellor Leopold Figl clarified the position of the Austrian Government on the subject of occupation



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costs as follows: The Federal Government has never ceased to point out that the occupation of Austria was based on reasons which were not in harmony with the country's interests or with those of peace, and that therefore Austria could at least demand that the costs arising out of this situation be borne by the occupation powers themselves and not loaded upon her. The Government's efforts since 1945 had led to the result that in consideration of the reasons it gave to the United States, that occupation power had obligingly decided to defray the cost of its occupation forces after July 1, 1947. Even though the Allied Council decision of February 21st regarding the occupation costs for the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 again represented a heavy burden on Austria's national finances, the Government felt obliged to point out that in view of the far-reaching demands of some of the occupation powers the decision did reflect some progress along the lines of its policy in these matters. The Federal Government formally took cognizance of this Allied Council decision in its Cabinet meeting of February 27, 1951, but reiterated its policy that it would continue to press for the complete abolishment of all occupation costs.

AUSTRIAN ENVOY ATTENDS ERHARDT RITES. A funeral service was held on April 15, in the chapel of his alma mater, Hamilton College, in Clinton, N. Y., for John G. Erhardt, United States Ambassador to South Africa, and between 1946 and 1950, United States Minister in Vienna. The Austrian Federal Government was represented at the ceremony by its Envoy to the United States, Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter. As spokesman for Secretary of State Dean Acheson, the department's chief of protocol, John Farr Simmons, hailed Mr. Erhardt's long-time contribution in "shaping the careers of men in the foreign service."

AUSTRIAN PROVINCIAL DEPUTY SICK IN AZERBAIJAN. The Office of the Federal Chancellor informed the Provincial Government of Lower Austria at the end of March that Provincial Deputy Ferdinand Riefler, who was arrested by the Russians in 1946 on unspecified charges, had been released from internment by the Soviet authorities and was sick in an Azerbaijan hospital. Riefler had been elected to the provincial legislature on the People's Party ticket in 1945. The Austrian political mission in Moscow has provided him with a passport and money, and has obtained an exit permit for him. The fate of Socialist Provincial Deputy Gruber, who has also been deported to the Soviet Union, continues to be shrouded in mystery.

RUSSIANS DEMAND TRANSFER OF AUSTRIAN POLICE OFFICIALS. According to a report published by the "Arbeiter-Zeitung", the Soviet military commandant of the Russian Zone of Vienna is said to have demanded that a high police officer be removed from the direction of the Donaustadt Commissariat. The Soviet military commandant is further reported to have alleged that the commander of the Austrian security police in the 22nd district had been guilty of anti-Soviet demeanor and should likewise be transferred. In reply to these demands the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer, stated that this order by the Soviet occupation authorities had no basis in any Austrian law.

RUSSIANS VETO AUSTRIAN LABOR BROADCAST ON VIENNA RADIO. The Soviet occupation authorities in Austria have vetoed a series of daily radio broadcasts on the RAVAG station which the Austrian Trade Union Federation and Chamber of Labor had planned to broadcast as of March 1 under the title "Austrian Workers Hour." The reason given by the Russians for prohibiting the broadcast series was that although the Russian Element had recognized three parties the contemplated radio program would have been accessible to only two. The Trade Union Federation countered by pointing out that it stands above political parties.

RUSSIANS PROHIBIT AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT POSTER. At the end of March the Austrian Government put up posters in Lower Austria and Vienna warning the population not to buy foreign cigarettes smuggled into the country. The posters pointed to the billions of schillings lost every year as a result of the black market in cigarettes and threatened black marketeers with severe penalties. Shortly after these posters had been affixed the Soviet commandant of Waidhofen and Gaenserndorf in Lower Austria ordered all Austrian authorities to remove the cigarette posters and turn them over to Russian occupation officials. The "Arbeiterzeitung" reports in this connection that USIA (Soviet-controlled) plants are selling Bulgarian cigarettes.

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SOVIETS AFFIX PROPAGANDA SLOGAN OF FOREIGN MAIL TO AUSTRIA. At the end of March 1951 a considerable number of foreign letters intended for Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland were found to be stamped with the Communist slogan: "On to the Youth Meeting of 50,000 for Peace and Freedom -- Whitsuntide 1951, Vienna." The illegal mail cancellations referred to the Whitsuntide rally of Communist youth scheduled to be held in Vienna. After investigation it was ascertained that Austrian postal authorities had nothing to do with the propaganda seals, which, in fact, had only been found on letters addressed to residents in Lower Austria, the Burgenland or Vienna. The illegal action was traced to the Soviet censorship office at the Suedbahnhof. Since the use of Austrian postal facilities for such partisan propaganda purposes represents a violation of the country's postal regulations, the Communist slogan was rendered illegible by a thick black cancellation.

PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS. U.S. High Commissioner Walter J. Donnelly announced early in April that the last eight Austrians still servicing jail sentences for war crimes would not be released. His statement was in reply to several requests that they be released from serving the remainder of their sentence. The American courts of law established in Austria for the prosecution of war criminals investigated 5,884 cases. Of the 61 that were brought to trial, 24 resulted in acquittals; the 37 convictions were reviewed several times and in many of the cases the sentence reduced. The eight war criminals who are still in jail were found guilty of crimes against American prisoners of war, mostly against American pilots. They are serving their sentences in Austrian jails and are governed by Austrian prison regulations.

U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER DONNELLY OBJECTS TO SHOWING OF VEIT HARLAN FILM. On April 6, 1951, U.S. High Commissioner Walter J. Donnelly asked the Austrian Government that the showing of the new Veit Harlan film, "Die unsterbliche Geliebte," be discontinued in the U.S. Zone of Austria, according to a report of the American News Service. The performance of this film in Salzburg had led to stormy demonstrations against the controversial figure of Veit Harlan, who had attained some degree of prominence as a film director during the Nazi period.

AUSTRIAN ENVOY BRAUNIAS PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS IN BELGRADE. On March 19, 1951, the Austrian Envoy Dr. Karl Braunias presented his credentials to Dr. Ivan Ribar, President of Yugoslav National Assembly. Austria and Yugoslavia agreed to resume normal diplomatic relations after the Yugoslav National Assembly recently voted a decree formally terminating the "state of war with Austria."

RESTRICTIONS ON AUSTRIAN NATIONALS LIFTED BY MEXICO. In the "Diario Oficial" of February 2, 1951, the United States of Mexico published a decree of December 11, 1950, formally lifting the legal restrictions the Mexican Government had imposed on Austrian nationals during the war. The rescission of the measures against enemy property, in so far as these applied to Austrians living in Mexico, now fully restores the legal rights and freedom of action of Austrians in Mexico. Special authorization for drawing up notarial documents, purchasing real estate property or engaging in other similar transactions will no longer be necessary.

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL CENSUS TO BE TAKEN JUNE 1, 1951. The national census approved by the Austrian Parliament last year will be taken on June 1, 1951. It will be the first official Austrian census since 1934.

410,033 REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA. The People's Party press service reports that there are now 410,033 foreign refugees and expatriates on Austrian soil. Of these 64,232 are foreign-speaking aliens, 14,387 of whom are currently housed in refugee camps. The German-speaking expatriates include 30,134 persons from Germany proper and 262,806 ethnic Germans from various areas of Central Europe. The latter comprise by far the largest group of refugees in Austria. The number of South Tyroleans now in the country amounts to 47,995. The Jewish refugees, of which there are 4,886, represent the smallest group. The majority of refugees, 102,984 German-speaking and 9,638 foreign-speaking aliens, live in Upper Austria. Under the Potsdam Agreement,



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only refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary can be repatriated to Germany while no provision is made for the resettlement of persons who have fled from Yugoslavia, Rumania and other countries. The group of German-speaking aliens in Austria excluded from the repatriation provisions of the Potsdam Agreement totals 170,000 people.

AUSTRIA PROMULGATES NEW LAWS TO COMBAT RAW MATERIALS CRISIS. On April 4 the Austrian Parliament approved a series of economic measures necessitated by the growing shortage of raw materials on the world market. The new laws will expire on June 30, 1952. At the center of the new economic measures is the establishment of an Economic Directorate in the Federal Government, whose function it will be to coordinate the activities of the various Ministries concerned with the different aspects of the country's economy. In addition to the presence of the Federal Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor, as well as the various Ministers involved, the meetings of the Economic Directorate will also be attended by one representative each of the National Bank, Federation of Trade Unions and the Chambers of Trade and Industry (Chamber of Commerce), Agriculture and Labor. According to the new legislation, the Federal Government is bound to report to Parliament at least every three months on any measures it may adopt with regard to the present raw materials crisis.

On April 4 Parliament also voted another law, on the basis of which the country's foreign trade activities will be subject to new regulations more in keeping with current world market conditions. The lists of those goods requiring special import and export permits was brought into line with the present changed situation, and the Foreign Trade Commission was abolished. Its authority was transferred partly to the new Economic Directorate and partly to the Ministry of Trade, in which an Advisory Council on Foreign Trade is being established for the purpose. Parliament also amended the Raw Materials Control Law to include a series of additional raw materials and categories of goods, such as iron and steel, petroleum, fuels, textiles, chemicals, etc.; the new materials will henceforth also be subject to controls in view of their threatening shortage. In addition, the controls that were in effect until 1949 were restored, with some changes, for certain categories of foodstuffs, such as for example the major types of cereals, meat and meat products, and seeds. And finally, the Austrian legislature extended for another year, with some modifications, the price control and price profiteering laws which were to have expired on June 30, 1951.

AUSTRIA TAKES NEW MEASURES TO REDUCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEFICIT. Immediately after Parliament passed the new economic laws, the Austrian Government adopted important measures to counteract the deteriorating foreign exchange situation. The most important of these is the one requiring that henceforth all applications for foreign exchange allocations be filed with the Foreign Trade Division of the Ministry of Trade. Heretofore, applications for the allocation of foreign exchange had to be filed with the Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or the Foreign Trade Commission, depending on the nature of the merchandise to be imported. At the same time the Government has also decided that, effective immediately, a commission consisting of the representatives of the economic Ministries, the National Bank and the non-voting Chambers shall draw up every week a plan for the allocation of foreign exchange based on the current weekly situation. Heretofore such plans had been drawn up every three months, a procedure which has proven unsuitable in view of the constantly changing general situation. Last October already the retention quotas, i.e. the amounts of foreign exchange which Austrian exporters are allowed to retain, had been cut by a flat 20%. These reduced quotas will now be cut by an additional 10%.

By these measures the Austrian Government hopes to be able to reduce by some \$30,000,000 the deficit in the country's balance of payments which, for the period from July 1, 1950 to the end of June 1951, is expected to be about \$60,000,000. Of the remaining thirty million, \$15,000,000 will be taken from the small reserves of the National Bank, and it is hoped that the \$15,000,000 which Austria will still be short may be obtained from the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in Paris, on the grounds that the measures now adopted by the Austrian Government represent the most

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extreme action it can possibly justify if the country's foreign trade, and of course its volume of exports as well, is not to be drastically upset.

AUSTRIAN BANKS AGREE ON CREDIT RESTRICTIONS. The directors of the Austrian National Bank met in March with the representatives of Austria's leading credit institutes for detailed talks on the country's domestic credit situation. The meeting resulted in full agreement on the necessity for adopting appropriate measures to arrest the undesirable broadening of credit extensions and unfavorable price developments. The financial institutions represented at the meeting agreed to withhold credits from all unjustified undertakings likely to further speculation and hoarding.

AUSTRIA FACED WITH BUDGET DEFICIT OF 670 MILLION. On April 6, 1951, Austrian Minister of Finance Dr. Margaretha, in a speech he delivered to the Austrian Press Club, revealed that there will be a deficit of 670 million schillings in this year's national budget. Of this sum 150 million schillings represent the retroactive payment of occupation costs for 1949 and 1950, and an additional 120 million schillings the difference between the preliminary assessment for the 1951 occupation costs and the amount finally stipulated by the Allied Council. Defrayment of occupation costs alone will account for 270 million schillings of this deficit. The other difficulty with regard to the original budget is that a cost-of-living increase in the salaries of civil service employees is costing the Government an additional outlay of about 31 million per month, to which must be added another 10 million for the adjustment of old-age pensions. The Minister of Finance has therefore been forced to refuse a number of requests, including one for the granting of price subsidies for certain items. Dr. Margaretha said that the Government was pinning its hopes for stabilizing the budget on expected receipts of current taxes and assessments. He added that every effort was being made to maintain full employment and to obtain sufficient raw materials, such as coal, from abroad.

RISING COAL PRICES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. Austrian coal imports have considerably increased in cost as a result of soaring coal prices on the world market. Between July 1, 1950, and the last price hike on March 19, 1951, the price of Ruhr coal has risen by 9.20 to 18.88 per cent for various qualities, that of Polish coal by 68.24% to 76.02% in the period from October 1, 1950, and April 1, 1951, and that of Czech coal and coke by 16.29% to 82.38% between August 1, 1950, and March 20, 1951. Negotiations on domestic coal prices resulted in an extension of the old price lists until June 30, 1951. Agreement was however reached on a clause according to which receipts above and beyond production costs plus a 10% profit margin may eventually be syphoned off by the Government. But coal mining authorities report that there is not the slightest chance of any excess receipts inasmuch as the price of mine shaft timber has increased by 50% and that of other equipment by an average 10% since January 1, 1951. The new wage agreement with the metal and mine workers represents an additional increase of 3% in coal production costs.

AUSTRIAN IRON PRICES INCREASED BY 25%. As of April 1, 1951, the domestic market price of pig iron and of the semi-finished products made from it was raised by 25 per cent. For reasons of foreign competition, export prices were left unchanged. The price of pig iron increased from 780 to 975 schillings per ton, that of rough-rolled blocks from 1,212 to 1,515 schillings, that of bar iron from 1,536 to 1,920 schillings, that of heavy plate from 1,836 to 2,323 schillings, and that of thin plate from 2,520 to 3,188 schillings, that of medium plate from 2,100 to 2,657 schillings per ton.

AUSTRIAN IRON ORE EXCHANGED FOR WEST GERMAN SCRAP. The agreement concluded between the "Oesterreichische Alpine Montangesellschaft" and West German steel works for the exchange of Austrian roasting ore against West German scrap iron, intended to cover the period from August 1, 1950 to July 31, 1951, has been extended until the end of this year, on the condition that West German deliveries of scrap iron are maintained at the present levels. The agreement provides for the exchange of 180,000 tons of Austrian roasting ore against 75,000 tons of West German scrap.



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SOVIETS GRANT AUSTRIA 12,000 TONS OF MOTOR FUEL FOR APRIL. The Soviet Petroleum Administration in Austria has agreed to allocate 12,000 tons of motor fuel to Austria's economy for the month of April 1951. This amount represents a 58% increase over the October 1950 allocation and satisfies in full the request made by the Federal Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction.

U.S. RAW MATERIAL SHIPMENTS TO AUSTRIA. The latest raw material deliveries to Austria under the Marshall Plan were particularly attuned to that country's difficult raw materials situation. In January 1951 660,400 dollars' worth of raw cotton arrived in Austria; in February Austrian textile plants received 1388 tons of American raw cotton for a value of \$1,297,578. These deliveries bring the total value of cotton so far authorized for Austria by the Marshall Plan to \$34,971,877. In February Austria received 16,708 dollars' worth of vegetable fibres and 48,937 dollars' worth of animal fibres. That month's deliveries of resin and turpentine amounted to a value of \$19,270. Austrian industry's increased demand for crude oil was met by larger American deliveries, which rose from 312 tons in January to 9,432 tons in February (for a value of \$339,437). February shipments of tin, zinc and lead ore also reflected a marked increase over those made in January. Particularly noteworthy was the increase of copper deliveries from 51 tons in January to 131 tons (\$63,739 worth) in February.

ECA AUTHORIZES AUSTRIAN PURCHASE OF WHEAT IN THE UNITED STATES. At the end of March the Economic Cooperation Administration authorized the Austrian purchase of 4.2 million dollars' worth of wheat in the United States.

ECA RELEASES 600 MILLION SCHILLINGS FROM COUNTERPART FUND. At the end of March the ECA in Washington released an additional 600 million schillings from the ERP Counterpart Fund. These funds are earmarked for reconstruction and investment projects within the framework of the three-year Austrian Investment Program, and represent the second installment of the total 2,600 million schillings to be released from the Counterpart Fund in the course of 1951. With these 600 million the overall total amount so far released to Austria's economy from the ERP Counterpart Fund exceeds 6 billion schillings.

AUSTRIA REVISES HER THREE-YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAM. The change in the price structure of Austria's economy since the end of 1949 has forced the Government to revise its 1950-52 investment program. On the basis of the price levels in effect at the end of 1949 the investment figure had been set at 24 billion schillings. This figure has now been revised upwards to 27 billion in keeping with the October 1950 level of prices and wages. Concomitantly with these developments plans are also being made to set higher production goals for the country's raw materials industries. Construction has begun on four new power stations which will have an aggregate output of 700 million KWH. The production of coal will be increased from the present four million tons per year to six million, that of iron and raw steel to more than one million tons and that of rolled stock to 750,000 tons. The output from bauxite mines is expected to be raised from 50,000 to 80,000 tons per year, aluminum capacity to almost 40,000 tons, cellulose production to 460,000 tons, and paper and cardboard production to 365,000 tons. The export capacity of the country's nitrogen works will be increased by 50%.

FEBRUARY IMPORTS EXCEED ONE BILLION SCHILLINGS. In its latest survey of the country's foreign trade situation for February 1951, the Austrian Central Office of Statistics reported that the upward trend in imports had still not been reversed. Total imports increased by 104 million schillings, thus passing the billion mark for the first time. The exact figure for February imports was 1027 million schillings, 203 million for ERP imports and 824 million for commercial imports. In January, the total was 923 million (151 million for ERP imports and 772 million for commercial imports). Compared to the figures for the closing months of 1950, this year's monthly totals reveal a marked upward trend. On the other hand, this year's monthly export figures are still somewhat behind those of the previous year. In February, exports amounted to 666 million schillings, as compared to 641 million in January.

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AUSTRIA'S PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF GRAPHITE. In recent years, Austria's two graphite-mining regions -- the Waldviertel and Muehlviertel areas of Lower Austria and the one located in Northern Styria -- have stepped up their output to such an extent that they are now able to satisfy the country's domestic needs of about 2,500 to 3,000 tons and still produce a substantial quantity of graphite for export. In 1948 graphite exports amounted to 7,319 tons, in 1949 they totalled 10,487 tons and in 1950, 9,799 tons. As a result of shifts on the world market present-day exports are still lagging far behind the last prewar figures of 15,958 tons in 1936 and 14,056 tons in 1937.

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION IN AUSTRIA. The Aluminum Works at Ranshofen, Austria, now employ 1,400 workers. The addition of another set of furnaces is expected to raise the April output to 1,600 tons, with still greater production increases awaited during the summer months.

AUSTRIA'S CEMENT INDUSTRY REACHES RECORD OUTPUT. Austria's cement industry reached an all-time high in 1950 with a total output of 1,280,551 tons. This figure represents a 20% increase over the previous year's production. It should be mentioned, however, that national consumption of cement has doubled since 1938, the most active construction year prior to the war.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS OF NITROGEN TO THE UNITED STATES. The order received by the Austrian Nitrogen Works in mid-February for the delivery of 50,000 tons of calcium ammonium nitrate to the United States has now been raised to 60,000 tons. The entire order will still be shipped in time for the coming fertilizer season (beginning in July). In addition, the firm has sold 50,000 tons of "Nitramoncal," the trade name under which Austrian nitrogenous fertilizer is sold abroad, for delivery during the first months of the fertilizer season which past experience has proven to be a slack period for fertilizer sales.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRAVELLING SALESMEN AND AGENTS IN VIENNA. An International Congress of Commercial Travellers and Agents will be held in Vienna, Austria, from June 13 through June 16, this year, according to news received by the Austrian Trade Delegate. The international meeting will be attended by numerous European associations of agents and salesmen, and invitations have also been issued to similar American associations. According to the provisional program received in New York, the following problems are to be discussed at the meeting: (1) Comparative studies of the legal status of salesmen and agents in various countries; (2) professional organizations in various countries and their status; (3) the problem of international mediation and arbitration; (4) simplification of international passport formalities and customs-handling of samples; (5) questions concerning travel and transportation facilities; (6) problems in connection with education and organization of the younger generation of salesmen and agents; (7) questions in connection with international arbitration between agents and foreign firms they represent; (8) changes in the statute of the International Association and extension of its scope; (9) financial questions; (10) general problems such as minimum salaries or commissions, exclusivity, etc. Further suggestions for inclusion in the program may be sent until April 30 to the Office of the International Congress, c/o Federal Chamber of Commerce, Bundesgremium der Handelsvertreter, Kommissionaere und Vermittler, Stubenring 8-10, Vienna, Austria, or to the Office of the Austrian Trade Delegate in New York. Participants who wish to have reservations made for their sojourn in Vienna on the occasion of the International Agents Congress should inform the Vienna Association or the New York Trade Delegate's office as early as possible. A program of activities, including an eight-day bus trip through Austria, is available at considerably reduced cost.

INTERNATIONAL HANDICRAFT CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. At a recent conference in Rome of the Central Committee of the International Handicraft Union it was decided to hold the next International Handicraft Congress in Vienna between May 28, and 31, 1951. The Congress will make a special point of discussing the problems facing private enterprises of medium size. The comprehensive program planned for the Congress and above all the extensive facilities for visiting the Austrian Handicraft Exhibition of 1951 are expected to give many foreign delegates an impressive picture of Austrian achievements in this field.



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Side by side with 11,218 industrial undertakings with a total payroll of 497,493 employees and workers, Austria has about 160,000 handicraft enterprises which employ something like 600,000 people. About 13 per cent of last year's exports were produced by these handicraft firms.

AUSTRIAN PRODUCTS EXHIBITED AT AMERICAN GIFT SHOWS. The American import firms, Hudson Art Importing Company, Inc., of New York and the William G. Slater company of Brooklyn, have exhibited Augarten porcelain products and other products of Austrian ceramics manufacturers at American Gift Shows which were recently held in Pittsburgh, Chicago, New York, Dallas, Boston and Philadelphia. The Austrian ceramic items were extremely well received by the general public as well as by trade circles. In Chicago alone 33 new clients placed orders amounting to some \$14,000.

AUSTRIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLY SOLD 1.6 BILLION'S WORTH IN 1950. In 1950 the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly sold 7.46 million kilos of tobacco products: 6 billion cigarettes, 58.2 million cigars, 1,459,000 kilos of pipe tobacco and 25,300 kilos of snuff tobacco. Cigarette consumption increased by 25% over the previous year and was 42% greater than in 1937. The reason total tobacco consumption in 1950 was only 86% of the 1937 volume was due to the fact that cigar and pipe tobacco consumption still trailed far behind the prewar figures. Last year the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly did a gross business of 1.59 billion schillings, the highest volume of sales since the war and an increase of 16% over the 1949 figure.

1.29 MILLION LABOR UNION MEMBERS IN AUSTRIA. The Central Secretariat of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions recently announced that its total membership at the end of 1950 had reached 1,290,581. This figure represents an increase of 11,061 over the previous year. Of the Federation's total membership, 955,965 (or 74.1%) are men and 334,616 (or 25.9%) women. Austria's largest union is that of the metal and mine workers which has 202,649 members, followed by that of the construction and lumber workers with 172,757 members and that of white collar workers in private industry with 138,193 members. The railroad workers' union has 117,875 members; the municipal employees' union 112,086; the textile, garment and leather workers' union 109,227 members; and the civil service employees' union 105,993 members.

SWEDISH SOCIAL WORKERS VISIT VIENNA AND SALZBURG. On April 2 Mayor Neumayr of Salzburg welcomed a group of Swedish social workers who visited Vienna and Salzburg in the course of a study trip through Central Europe. The group is composed of students from the Göteborg Institute of Social Welfare whose purpose is to train young social workers for community work. Prof. Anderson, the leader of the group, declared in an interview that the City of Vienna had set an example of great achievements in the field of housing, in addition to its remarkable work in the field of kindergarten care. He added that child psychology and educational methods were so far advanced in Austria that Swedish institutions had decided to send their specialists to Vienna for further study.

1089 HOUSES IN VIENNA STILL IN DEFECTIVE CONDITION. There are still 1089 residential dwellings in Vienna which are in defective condition as the result of war damage. This figure includes all houses inhabited at the present time which, although still defective, have been made fit for occupancy with the help of funds from the Reconstruction Fund for Residential Dwellings. The figure of 1089 does not include houses which suffered major damage, that is, those ruins which are not or cannot be used as living quarters and have to be completely rebuilt.

RESULTS OF FIRST AUSTRIAN TUBERCULOSIS CONFERENCE. On March 19 and 20 the newly founded Austrian Tuberculosis Society held its first scientific conference, which was attended by many representatives from all of the country's federal provinces. The conference discussed at length the therapeutic value of Streptomycin in the fight against tuberculosis. The tuberculosis expert of the City of Vienna told the assembled public health officials that in 1937 the death rate from tuberculosis in Vienna was 10.7 per thousand and that by 1945 this

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figure had jumped to 28.8. When the use of Streptomycin was introduced in 1948, the death rate dropped to 10.9 with the downward trend continuing to 8.6 in 1949 and 6.1 in 1950. While 184 persons succumbed to cerebral and military tuberculosis in Vienna in 1947, the use of Streptomycin had reduced this figure to 75 by 1950.

ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF AUSTRIAN CHILDREN. In January the American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., at 202 East 19th Street, New York 3, N. Y., whose Honorary Chairman is Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austria's Envoy to the United States, and whose Executive Director is Mr. John Gorski, sent a shipment of 574 cartons of salted creamery butter to Austria via Genoa. In March the charitable organization shipped 200 barrels of dried spray milk via Trieste. The value of these two shipments, gratuitously placed at the disposal of the organization by the U.S. Government, amounts to about \$38,400. In the course of the last year the American Friends of Austrian Children have sent food shipments in the amount of \$65,000 to Austria. The Economic Cooperation Administration defrayed the cost of ocean freight, with the organization itself paying for the inland freight from the warehouses in the Middle West to the ports of New York and New Orleans. Since the American Government has temporarily discontinued its gifts of food because of the international situation, the American Friends of Austrian Children has now decided to devote its activities primarily to cultural and educational projects in the interest of Austrian children and to a better understanding between the two countries.

CHURCH RECONSTRUCTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VIENNA. The "Wiener Kirchenblatt" recently published a survey of the damage caused by the war to the churches in the Archdiocese of Vienna. In addition to the severe damage suffered by St. Stephen's Cathedral, 22 churches were completely destroyed, 55 severely damaged, 117 suffered damages of some consequence, and 190 were only slightly damaged. Since 1945, 192 of the 385 churches have been completely rebuilt and 11 new ones erected. Of the famous Vienna churches which have been completely or partly restored mention may be made of the churches of St. Augustin, St. Ruprecht, Maria am Gestade, Kirche am Hof, the Franciscan Church and the "Wallfahrtskirche" (shrine) in Maria Lanzendorf. In many cases the Building Office of the Archdiocese and the Finance Office of the Archbishopric have made notable contributions to the construction and restoration of these churches. But most of the work was made possible by the contributions of the parishes themselves.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC RECEIVES DEATH MASK OF BEETHOVEN. The Austrian Association of Blind Veterans has presented the Vienna Philharmonic with the only existing master cast of Beethoven's death mask in recognition of its participation in a charity concert for the Association.

INDIAN STATE ASKS AUSTRIA FOR SOIL FROM MOZART'S GRAVE. The Indian State of Saurashtra has requested the Austrian Federal Chancellery for a bit of soil from Mozart's grave for incorporation into the foundation walls of the famous Tempel of Somnath which is being rebuilt in the city of Prabhas Patan. The Chancellery has acceded to this request and sent the earth to India.

FIRST PERFORMANCE OF "LOST" MOZART COMPOSITION IN VIENNA. In March the composition, "Marcia Funebre," long attributed to Beethoven but actually from the pen of Mozart, received its first performance in Vienna. Roland Tenschert, the Austrian musicologist and Mozart authority, had already known the work before the last World War and it had in fact been included in the revised edition of the so-called Koechel listing prepared by Alfred Einstein. The family album of the Mozart pupil Babette Ployer, into which the composition had been written, was lost during the war.

MOZART HOUSE IN SALZBURG IN DANGER OF BECOMING OFFICE BUILDING. The house of Leopold Mozart, father of the great composer, was destroyed by bombs at the end of World War II and the Mozarteum is planning to rebuild it in its original form, with the addition of only one floor. The famed music academy is also fighting an attempt on the part of some interests to erect an office building on the site. To carry out its project, the Mozarteum is appealing for financial aid to Mozart societies all over the world. Dr. Paumgartner, President of the Mozart



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Foundation, is also known to have approached leading musicians throughout the world as well as the Austrian Government to support these plans. It was in this house that the Salzburg genius wrote some of his most beloved serenades, chamber music compositions, piano sonatas and symphonies.

BALLET OF VIENNA STATE OPERA INVITED TO PERFORM AT DEAUVILLE FESTIVAL. The ballet of the Vienna State Opera, which gave a series of popular performances in Cannes early in March, will appear at the Deauville Festival at the end of August.

"JUNG-WIEN" CHORAL GROUP TO ACCOMPANY VIENNA SYMPHONY ON TOUR. On June 29, 1951, the choral group, "Jung-Wien", under the direction of its founder Prof. Leo Lehner, will leave with an ensemble of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra for a guest tour of Switzerland and Southern France. The choir will give concerts in Nice, Monto Carlo and Marseille on the French Riviera. The program of the young artists will include works by Haydn, Schubert, Mozart and Bruckner, as well as folksongs and dances by Johann Strauss. In Switzerland the group will perform in Geneva, Zurich and Basle.

1951 BREGENZ FESTIVAL. The 1951 Bregenz Festival will be held from July 21 through August 12. This year's lakeside play will be Johann Strauss' "Gypsy Baron." The Vienna Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Anton Paulik, and the Ballet of the Vienna State Opera will again participate and the Burgtheater will give three performances of Molière's "Le Malade Imaginaire." The Municipal Administration of Bregenz also hopes to sign up a leading Swiss and a leading Western German theatrical group for guest performances during the Festival.

GRAZ FESTIVAL TO OPEN JUNE 30. Continuing the tradition of previous years, the capital city of Styria will again be host to many foreign visitors for this year's festival to be held from June 30 to July 11. One of the features of the event will be a performance of "Fidelio" and a series of performances by the Vienna Burgtheater on the stage of the city's Schlossberg. Festival audiences will also witness the world premiere of the modern opera "Stella" by the Austrian composer Waldemar Bloch. The libretto of the opera, which will be staged in the court enclosure of the Graz town hall, is based on Goethe's tragedy of the same title.

"MUSIC IN THE GRAPHIC ARTS" IS THEME OF ALBERTINA EXHIBITION. On April 1 the famous Albertina Museum, which houses one of Europe's largest collections of graphic art, opened an exhibition of some 300 works from its treasure of masterpieces under the title "Music in the Graphic Arts." The unusual show includes drawings, woodcuts, etchings and other works of graphic art ranging from the beginning of the 15th century to the present time. Particularly well represented are the Dutch schools, the French graphic artists of the 18th century and works of the German Romanticists of the 19th century, including Moritz v. Schwind's sketches for the frescoes of the Vienna Opera House. In conjunction with the art show a series of concerts of old music from the various periods represented by the graphic works on display are also being presented, with the music performed on old instruments.

WOTRUBA EXHIBITION IN BRUSSELS. The Viennese sculptor Fritz Wotruba, has just had an exhibition of 37 of his creations at the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels. The show was received with much acclaim. Fritz Wotruba was born in Vienna in 1907, the son of a working class family and studied the art of engraving in that city. Today he is generally conceded to be Austria's most significant sculptor and a leader of modern European sculpture. Wotruba's works may be found in public and private collections scattered throughout the West, notably in Vienna, Berlin, Essen, Duesseldorf, Basle, London, Madrid and San Francisco.

VIENNA'S HISTORY OF ART MUSEUM OPENS NEW EXHIBITION ROOMS. A number of new exhibition rooms containing varied works of art and objects of interest were recently opened to the public in Vienna's Museum of the History of Art. The Oriental Room, for example, is now showing a display of Turkish arms dating back to the time of the Turkish sieges of Vienna in 1529 and 1683. Another collection featuring a wide

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variety of instruments, contains Bach's clavichord, Haydn's harpsichord, Mozart's spinet, Beethoven's pianoforte and the newest types of the famous "Boesendorfer" concert grands. The new display rooms have been decorated with tapestries and paintings on loan from other sections of the museum.

FRIEDRICH TORBERG IN VIENNA. On April 10 Friedrich Torberg, the noted author, arrived in Vienna from the United States. On the occasion of his visit the Austrian PEN Club held a reception at Vienna's International House on the evening of April 11. Mr. Torberg read from his unpublished works.

DR. BOCK AND DR. POLSTERER HONORARY CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO. The City of San Francisco has bestowed upon the two leaders of an Austrian Students' Good Will Tour, which is here for a series of guest performances in the United States, the honorary citizenship of San Francisco. The Austrian group was awarded first prize for the most outstanding nationality group at the St. Patrick's Parade in San Francisco.

AUSTRIA RECEIVES BANCHETTA PRIZE. At the International Film Congress in Sestriere (Northern Italy) early in April, Austria was awarded the Banchetta Prize -- a highly coveted international film trophy given every year for the best international tourist-promotion film. The prize-winning wintersport film, "Ski Paradise," had been produced at the request of the Tourist Department of the Austrian Ministry of Trade and the Austrian Tourist Promotion Office.

SPORTS RELATIONSHIP WITH HUNGARY DISCONTINUED. The soccer game between Austria and Hungary which was to have been held in Budapest on April 15 has been cancelled by the Austrian Soccer Association. The reason for the action was the recent insufficiently-motivated cancellation by the Hungarians of the encounter between the Budapest soccer team "Honved" and the Vienna team "Wacker" which had originally been scheduled for Easter Sunday at the Vienna Stadium. The "Presse" reports that the reason for the Hungarian cancellation were considerations of a political nature and that the defection of prominent Hungarian players when abroad had a lot to do with the Hungarian action.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE MEETS IN VIENNA. The International Olympic Committee will meet in the Main Concert Hall of Vienna on May 6th to set the exact date for the next Olympic games.

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